21. (Amended-Clean Text) A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein said error correction operations include filtering to remove unwanted points.

A5

22. (Amended-Clean Text) A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein said error correction operations include the joining of line segments.

A6

24. (Amended-Clean Text) A method as claimed in claim 18 including character recognition for recognising and deleting characters erroneously identified as line objects.

REMARKS

By the above amendment, the specification has been amended to clarify the brief description of Figs. 5a and 5b, and the claims have been amended to delete multiple dependency.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Jian Kang WU et al.

Leslie J. Paperner Reg No. 33,329
Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

March 14, 2001

GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION

Figs 5a and 5b are [Fig. 5 is] a flow-chart illustration a method for finding the next line point.

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 3 [or claim 4] wherein the line centre is located by determining the peak of the colour ridge profile of the line at the point location.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 3 [or claim 4] wherein the line centre is located by determining the peak of the colour profile line width average function at the point location.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in [anyone of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said features are selected from the colour, line profile, line width, line direction and spatial location of the line points.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the features at each step of the method in which they are used are independently selected.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 wherein the sample data is clustered in such a way that the clusters occupy a minimum area in feature space.

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 wherein image points are matched to clusters by means of a decision making operation that matches colour data firstly and uses other data to verify the match.

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 wherein detected line points act as seeds for a line tracing algorithm.

18. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 wherein said error identification and correction comprises an interactive process in which possible errors are presented to a user for verification or correction.

21. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 19 [or 20] wherein said error correction operations include filtering to remove unwanted points.

22. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any of claims 19 to 21] claim 19 wherein said error correction operations include the joining of line segments.

24. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any of claims 18 to 23] claim 18 including character recognition for recognising and deleting characters erroneously identified as line objects.